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pay attention and review the amendments that were on this bill before I voted for MIRF, had I known that this was on there, this amendment, and was going to be considered, I would have done everything I could to have stopped the LB 440. This is not the time to be adding earmarks. This is the time to be taking them away. This is not the time to be expanding government. It's the time to be contracting it. I hope that we do not do this. This is a bad idea. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Bourne. (Visitors introduced.) Now the next speaker will be Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Engel and members. Originally, I wasn't going to say much, and I still am not going to say too much on this. But listening to Senator Bourne and Senator Janssen, they expressed my views very, very well, so I thought I should get up and say a little bit. And I figured most of you probably wondered, you had no idea where I stood, and you were really curious. So I thought I would tell you that I am definitely in opposition to this amendment. But it just seems like it gets old fighting the fight. I don't think that most people in here ever believe us when we talked about border bleed and black market and all of those things. I think it goes in one ear and out the other, but it is a fact of life, and it is out there. Another fact, it's a proven fact that it is lower-income people traditionally that are more of the smokers in society. And we're raising sales tax. We're raising the income tax. We're expanding the sales tax base. Now we're going to talk...and we're...we raised cigarette tax again or we extended it again. Now we want to raise it some more. When is it ever going to end and how much more taxes can we put on these people? And with that, I will return my time.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Synowiecki. I'm sorry, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I've told the folks behind the glass on both sides of the issue that I was undecided, and I think I'm getting closer to a position and I have to concur with Senator Bourne's assertion that now is not a time to be expanding programs. And I remember very vividly the